



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN ELECTRIC RATE CASE FILED BY EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings in **September** in an electric rate case filed by The Empire District Electric Company (Empire). **Hearings are scheduled for September 5 through 8 and September 11 through 15, 2006.**

These hearings will be held in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any person needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings, please call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearings.

Applications to intervene and participate in this rate case must be filed no later than **February 27, 2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0360. Copies of the application should be sent to: James C. Swearengen, Esq., Brydon, Swearengen & England, 312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0456; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Commission. Individual citizens wishing to comment should contact either the Office of the Public Counsel (P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 573-751-4857) or the Public Service Commission Staff (P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, telephone 1-800-392-4211).

On February 1, 2006, The Empire District Electric Company filed an electric rate case with the Public Service Commission. Empire is seeking to increase annual electric revenues by approximately \$29.5 million (9.63%). For the average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, the proposed increase would be approximately \$11.11 a month.

Empire states that the "proposed rate increase is driven primarily by higher costs of the fuel used by Empire in the generation of electricity. Other costs associated with providing safe and reliable electric service to Empire's customers have also increased since Empire's last rate adjustment."

The Empire District Electric Company serves approximately 141,500 electric customers in 16 southwest Missouri counties (Barry, Barton, Cedar, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Hickory, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, Newton, Polk, St. Clair, Stone and Taney).